

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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**NORTON BAY REOPENS TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING FOLLOWING
NEW RECORD COMMERCIAL CHUM SALMON HARVEST**

Norton Sound Subdistrict 4, the Norton Bay Subdistrict, will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for 72-hours from 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 16 to 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 19. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate and gillnets must have a mesh size no greater than 6 inches.

Norton Bay fishermen have already harvested nearly 24,000 chum salmon this season, which is above the previous record harvest of 21,973 taken back in 1978. Congratulations to Norton Bay fishermen and Norton Sound Seafood Products on a productive and lucrative chum salmon season.

Escapement of chum salmon into Norton Bay salmon-producing drainages has also been strong as indexed by the NSEDC-operated Inglutalik River tower. Cumulative passage of chum salmon at Inglutalik River tower is over 30,000 fish, which is tracking similar to the 2011 season when over 64,000 chum salmon were counted. Current levels of inriver chum salmon abundance are more than sufficient to meet subsistence needs and provide escapements to ensure future returns of chum salmon.